



# THE SWANSEA REPORT

VOLUME 35, ISSUE 6

January 2026

## Village Board Adopts Property Tax Levy 2026

### WHAT'S INSIDE

Page 2

**Mark Your Calendar**

Page 3

**Come Visit Us!**

Page 4

**A Big Thank YOU!**

Page 5

**Winners —**

**4th Annual Rotary Raffle**

Page 6

**News Briefs**

Page 7

**Mistletoe Mayhem and Winter Wonderland Santa House**

Page 8

**Rotary Club**

Page 9

**Live Streaming and Village Contact Information**

Page 10

**Calendars**

Page 11

**From the Mayor's Desk**

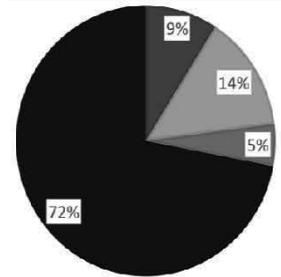
Page 12

**Notice of Public Hearing for Planning and Zoning**

Property tax is one of the primary ways for municipalities to raise revenue for community services. Property tax is a levy on certain types of physical property, such as homes, real estate and land. A property tax bill is a detailed statement that itemizes the taxes you owe, how those taxes are calculated, and how the funds are distributed to local government services. The total amount due is based primarily on your property's assessed value and the local tax rate.

Property tax bills in Swansea are distributed to the following local governments for services:

- School Districts (i.e. Wolf Branch, Belleville High School, High Mount, Whiteside) – 72% of total tax bill
- SWIC District #522 – 5% of total tax bill
- St. Clair County (including township and road) – 14% of total tax bill
- Village of Swansea – 9% of total tax bill



Swansea levies property taxes for the following categories of local government services:

- Corporate Fund (General Fund: i.e. administrative services, public works, streets maintenance)
- Pensions (IMRF, Firefighter's, Police)
- Fire Protection
- Police Protection
- Municipal Auditing
- Insurance and Tort Judgement (General Liability, Vehicle and Property Insurance)
- Public Parks

#### 2025 Tax Levy:

On December 22, 2025, the Village Board approved a 6.84% increase for its portion of the tax bill which results in an estimated \$2.8 million to be received by the Village to fund the local government services listed above for the fiscal year commencing May 1, 2025 and ending April 30, 2026.

Corporate Fund	\$221,340	IL Municipal Retirement Fund	\$ 169,320
Fire Protection	\$229,500	Fire Pension Fund	\$ 163,200
Police Protection	\$219,734	Police Pension Fund	\$1,636,888
Municipal Auditing	\$ 16,528	Insurance/Tort Judgement	\$ 59,713
Public Parks	\$ 66,300		

#### How does this increase affect my property tax bill:

*Example Tax Bill (2024 Tax Year):*

Using the example property tax bill above, the resident paid the Village of Swansea \$557.49 in 2024. For 2025, the Village is proposing a 6.84% increase to the Village's portion of property tax. Not considering other factors such as increased valuation of the property, the tax collected for the Village would increase from \$557.49 to \$567.30 (a \$9.81 increase).

That \$567.30 is then split between all of the categories to pay for Village services.

- \$45.13 – Corporate Fund (General Fund: i.e. administrative services, public works, streets maintenance)
- Pensions (\$34.52 – IMRF; \$33.27 – Firefighter's; \$333.73 – Police)
- \$46.79 – Fire Protection
- \$44.80 – Police Protection
- \$3.37 – Municipal Auditing
- \$12.17 – Insurance and Tort Judgement (General Liability, Vehicle and Property Insurance)
- \$13.52 – Public Parks

District	Tax Rate	Extension
WOLF BRANCH #113	3.868400	\$3,167.76
BELLEVILLE HS #201	1.899400	\$1,555.38
ST CLAIR CO OTHER	0.953500	\$780.80
VILLAGE OF SWANSEA	0.680800	\$557.49
SWIC DIST #522	0.379200	\$310.52
ST CLAIR ROAD	0.223500	\$183.02
ST CLAIR TWP	0.033300	\$27.27
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8.038100</b>	<b>\$6,582.24</b>

## Mark Your Calendar

The Rotary Club of Swansea is proud to present

**ROTARY ROUND UP**

# Annual Dinner Auction

Saturday, February 28, 2026

Belleville/Swansea Moose Lodge 1221  
2425 North Illinois Street | Swansea, IL 62226

Doors Open at 5 p.m.

Open Bar Until 7:30 p.m. | Buffet Dinner - 6:30 p.m.

Silent & Live Auction

**Rotary**  
Club of Swansea



Tickets are \$60 per person  
Includes a \$10 entry chance for Reverse Raffle  
(must be present to win)  
Tables of 8 available

All proceeds benefit selected local charities

Tickets can be purchased online at [www.swansearotary.org](http://www.swansearotary.org)  
or for ticket information/questions contact:  
Cory - (618) 623-8208 | Jim - (618) 978-9076



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**Swansea KinderCare**  
1 Corporate Dr, Swansea, IL 62226  
Tori Siron, Center Director  
(618) 418-4880

- Ages: 6 weeks to 5 years
- Hours: 6:30 AM to 6:30 PM, M-F
- License pending

Hello Swansea Neighbors,

My name is Kristie Ward, I am a Swansea citizen and the President of the Board of Directors for the Belleville Area Humane Society. We know everyone is very curious about the property at 23 Huntwood Drive at Huntwood and 159. We have amazing news: Jim and Shirley Rauckman very generously donated the property to our organization this past spring. We will be forever grateful for this kind hearted gift. The home, as beautiful as it was, was not in a habitable state and we had to make the difficult decision to remove it. We want you to know we are here to serve our community in a vast array of services and hope to one day be able to become a part of your neighborhood. At this time we are unsure how we will utilize this new space but we have a lot of hopes and dreams. In 2024 our Belleville campus had 1697 Adoptions, 368 pets vaccinated in our Vaccination Clinics, 7920 pets fed through our Pet Food Pantry, 231 Community Cats TNR'd (trap neuter return) and 6,119 Volunteer Hours served by community members. We have a long tradition of serving this vast community and look forward to growing as a "great big, little shelter." We would love to invite you to visit us later this Spring at an open house on the property so you can check us out first hand, date to be determined. In the meantime, feel free to stop by and visit us at our Belleville location 1301 South 11<sup>th</sup> Street.

Sincerely,

Kristie Ward

Board President, Belleville Area Humane Society

**GREAT NEWS!!!**



# A BIG Thank You!

## Christmas Program Helps 70 Families

This year the Swansea Family Christmas Program was able to help 70 Swansea families in need. We were able to give each family gift cards to Swansea grocery chains to help purchase their holiday meals. We have so many thoughtful Swansea residents and business donors. Without any donation large or small, this program could not survive! This event is coordinated and handled through the Village of Swansea Government Office but it could not be completed successfully without the help of our wonderful volunteers. These donations will truly make someone's holiday a little brighter!

With sincerest gratitude, we wish healthy blessings in 2026 to those that donated time, money, and their expertise to keep this program successful.

Cheers to many more years of helping those in need in Swansea!



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**DID YOU KNOW...**

You can access the Swansea Report by scanning the QR Code or by visiting [Swanseail.org](http://Swanseail.org) and following the steps below:

- ⇒ Hover over “How Do I”
- ⇒ Click “Sign up for Notifications” and follow the instructions under “Notify Me” to subscribe the Swansea Report

## Winners- 4th Annual Rotary Raffle

By: Natalie Jablonski

The Rotary Club of Swansea held their fourth CAVE Educational Awards Raffle this year to benefit elected graduating students. The raffle was a tremendous success, and we exceeded our expectations. The winners of the 2025 raffle were:

1st Place - Kathy Vineyard

2nd Place - Katrina Eygea

3rd Place - Ed Henrichs

Thanks to the support of many patrons that purchased tickets, we will be able to distribute Educational Awards to spring graduates of the School District 201 Center for Academic & Vocational Excellence (CAVE) Program. Located at 7645 Magna Drive in Belleville, CAVE offers vocational programs in welding, carpentry, culinary arts, automotive and machining. The program is also designed to address the physical, emotional, social and intellectual needs of at-risk students in order to successfully transition back to Belleville East or West High School, on to college or a career.

District 201 CAVE administrators will coordinate the Educational Award application process and student selection with the Rotary Club Committee. Applications for graduating seniors will be available at CAVE in January 2026 and the Rotary Awards will be presented in May 2026.

For more information on how you can become involved in Rotary visit [www.swansearotary.org](http://www.swansearotary.org) and be sure to follow [facebook.com/SwanseaRotary](https://facebook.com/SwanseaRotary) to learn more about the exciting things happening in our community!

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## News Briefs

### ***Meet Your Police Commissioners***

The Police Commissioners are responsible for testing and interviewing officer candidates for eligibility lists to fill vacancies as they arise within the police department. They make the hiring recommendations to the Village Board, and are also responsible for conducting promotional exams for sergeant positions.

**Tracy Thieken**



**Michael Leopold**



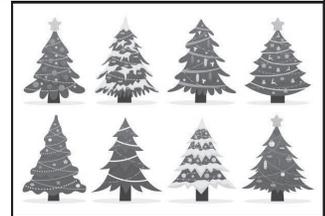
**Kurt Eversman**



Thank you, Commissioners, for serving your community in this critical role!

### **2 Options for Christmas Tree Collection**

**Republic Services:** All Republic Services customers in the Village of Swansea can participate in Christmas Tree removal. Christmas Trees will be removed January 2<sup>nd</sup> through the 16<sup>th</sup>, curbside same day as your trash pick up. All lights, decorations and stands must be removed before removal. Tree must be cut into 4ft lengths or must cut in half if bigger. Please contact Republic Services with any questions 618-656-6883.



**Melvin Price and Schranz Park Drop Off:** Christmas trees can be dropped off at Melvin Price and Schranz Park starting December 26<sup>th</sup> until January 16<sup>th</sup>. This is a convenience provided to Swansea residents only. Christmas trees only; no tree bags, no yard waste.

### **Swansea Fire Department Winter Barbecue**

**When:** February 15<sup>th</sup> 11—2 P.M. (or sold out)

**Where:** Swansea Fire Department Engine House #1,  
1350 N. Illinois St., Swansea, IL 62226

**Food:** Ribs- Pork Steaks - 1/2 Chickens - Pulled Pork



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# Mistletoe Mayhem and Winter Wonderland Santa House

Swansea was buzzing Saturday evening, December 6<sup>th</sup>, as the Swansea Fire House on Huntwood Road transformed into a scene straight out of a classic Batman and Robin episode — complete with thrills, cheers, and community spirit. **SICW Wrestling** delivered a powerhouse card for the annual **Mistletoe Mayhem** event, headlined by a dramatic showdown between the fierce **Attila Kahn** and the unstoppable **Flash Flanagan**. In a finish that felt like a “Bam!” “Pow!” and “Wham!” moment from the 1960s Bat-fights, Attila Kahn emerged victorious, capturing the coveted **diamond-encrusted championship ring** to thunderous applause.

Adding to the fun, the ring became a historic gathering place before the main event, as **three Swansea mayors** — current Mayor **Jeff Parker**, along with former mayors **Mike Leopold** and **Mike Buehlhorn** — stepped inside together. Their joint appearance brought a surge of excitement and hometown pride, giving the night a superhero-team-up feel, as if Gotham’s leaders had joined forces with the Dynamic Duo for one epic holiday mission.



The Swansea Park Board proudly supported the event, but the **Swansea Fire Department** went above and beyond in true heroic fashion. Much like Alfred and the Batcave crew working tirelessly behind the scenes, firefighters handled **refreshments, full event setup, and complete teardown** with precision and dedication. Their efforts — preparing the venue, organizing serving stations, managing crowd flow, and staying late to restore the Fire House — ensured a smooth, professional evening from start to finish, with assistance from the equally dependable Street Department.

Of course, no superhero tale is complete without loyal allies, and the night would not have been the same without the **many generous sponsors who lined the tables**. Their support brought color, energy, and resources to the event, helping transform Mistletoe Mayhem into a festive community celebration. Just as Batman relied on trusted partners throughout Gotham, the VIPs relied on these sponsors to help raise funds and elevate the experience for every attendee.

At the heart of it all were the **Swansea VIPs (Volunteers Improving Parks)**, who organized Mistletoe Mayhem as a fundraiser for improvements throughout Swansea’s park system. Much like Batman and Robin stepping up to protect their city, the VIPs rallied volunteers, coordinated logistics, and blended entertainment with community spirit to create a night to remember. With SICW’s talent, the dedication of local departments, the support of sponsors, and the passion of the volunteers, Mistletoe Mayhem once again proved that Swansea knows how to put on a show worthy of superhero applause.

## Winter Wonderland Santa House

What a magical Santa House season we had in Swansea! The joy on children’s faces made every moment special, and it wouldn’t have been possible without this incredible community coming together.

A heartfelt shout-out to Mike Buehlhorn, our North Pole navigator, whose enthusiasm made the magic happen.

Huge appreciation goes to our amazing crew of volunteers and the Park Board who devoted their time to planning, setup, and keeping the Santa House running beautifully throughout the season. Your dedication created memories that families will treasure.

To all the families who stopped by to share the holiday spirit with Santa—thank you for being part of the celebration. We can’t wait to welcome you back next year!

## Electronic Recycling

Please mark your calendars for the upcoming

**When:** Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> and Mar. 21<sup>st</sup>

**Time:** 9-11 A.M

**Location:** 107 Service Street

For more Information scan the QR Code or call 233-3437



The Swansea Report is also posted on our website at: [www.swanseail.org](http://www.swanseail.org)

# Rotary Club



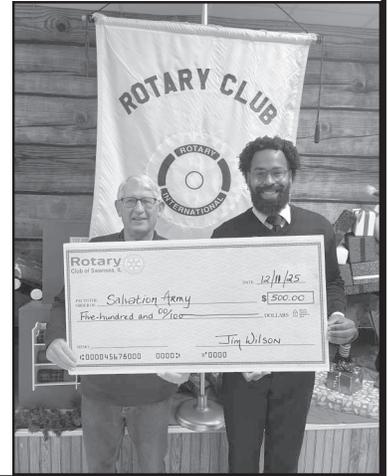
A special thanks to the Rotary Club of Swansea for arranging a volunteer day for their members and guests to ring the bell for The Salvation Army Red Kettle campaign outside the Swansea Schnucks.

More than \$280 was donated by Schnucks customers during the four hour shift, and the Rotary donated an additional \$500 to support the cause.



Pictures:

- (top left) Mayor Parker;
- (top right) Kristina Essenpreis & Natalie Jablonski
- (bottom left) Ben Schloesser
- (bottom right) Club President Jim Wilson



## It's never too early

No matter what stage of life you're in, it's never too early to start planning for retirement. Let us help you balance your need to protect what you have with your desire to build for the future.



**Corey Stelling**

2310 N Illinois Street  
Swansea, IL 62226

**618-416-7820**

robert.stelling@  
countryfinancial.com



062015-05522AC

## Winter Closing of the Restrooms at the Parks

The restrooms will be closed at Schranz, Mel Price and the Clinton Hill Parks starting November through March. There will be portable restrooms at the parks including the Boul Avenue Trailhead Park during the Winter months.



FCB Swansea Bank 239-9000  
FCB O'Fallon Bank 622-9090  
FCB Belleville Bank 235-9090

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## Live Streaming and Village Contact Information

Exciting News from the Village of Swansea! Now streaming Board Meetings!

The **Village of Swansea began livestreaming all Village Committee and Board Meetings** to make it easier for our residents to stay informed and engaged — from wherever you are!



**Tune in live by scanning the QR code to the right**

Be sure to **follow the Village of Swansea on YouTube** to get notified when meetings go live!

We're committed to transparency and keeping our community connected. Thank you for being an active part of our community!

### VILLAGE OF SWANSEA CONTACT INFO

**Swansea Government Center**

**Phone: 618-234-0044 1444 Boul Avenue**

**Hours: 8:00am - 4:30pm, M-F**

**www.swanseail.org**

**Admin: Mayor's Office & Village Clerk**

**Utility Billing & Public Works**

Phone: 618-234-0044

**swanadmn@swanseail.org**

**Building and Zoning Permits Phone:**

618-234-0044 swanbnz@swanseail.org

**Swansea Police Department Emergency: 911**

**Non-emergency: 618-233-8114**

swanseap@swanseail.org

**Swansea Fire Department Emergency: 911**

**Engine House: 618-234-3291**

### VILLAGE OF SWANSEA OFFICIALS

#### President (Mayor)

**Jeff Parker** — ✉ mayor@swanseail.org

#### Village Clerk

**Gloria Collier** — ✉ gcollier@swanseail.org

#### Treasurer

**John Walter** — ✉ jwalter@swanseail.org

#### Board of Trustees

**Matt Lanter** — ✉ mlanter@swanseail.org

**Natalie Jablonski** — ✉ njablonski@swanseail.org

**Brian Thouvenot** — ✉ bthouvenot@swanseail.org

**Brian McGuire** — ✉ bmcguire@swanseail.org

**Sherman Pochek** — ✉ spocek@swanseail.org

**Cary Lewis V.** — ✉ clewis@swanseail.org

💡 **Tip:** When emailing multiple officials, also include swanadmn@swanseail.org so administrative staff can help coordinate a response.

# 2026 Calendars

## January

- 1<sup>st</sup> (Thursday)** Government Office Closed — New Year's Day
- 2<sup>nd</sup> (Friday)** 2 Options for Christmas Tree Collection (see page 6 for more details)
- 5<sup>th</sup> (Monday)** Committee Meeting 6 P.M. Board Meeting 7 P.M. Government Center
- 8<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)** Rotary Club 7:30 A.M. Thompson Center
- 10<sup>th</sup> (Saturday)** Park Board Meeting 8 A.M. Thompson Center
- 13<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday)** Planning and Zoning Board Meeting 6 P.M. Government Center
- 15<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)** Rotary Club 7:30 A.M. Thompson Center
- 16<sup>th</sup> (Friday)** Last day for Christmas Tree Collection
- 19<sup>th</sup> (Monday)** Government Office Closed — Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 20<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday)** Committee Meeting 6 P.M. Board Meeting 7 P.M. Government Center  
VIPS Meeting 7 P.M. Thompson Center
- 22<sup>nd</sup> (Thursday)** Rotary Club 7:30 A.M. Thompson Center
- 29<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)** Rotary Club 7:30 A.M. Thompson Center

## February

- 2<sup>nd</sup> (Monday)** Committee Meeting 6 P.M. Board Meeting 7 P.M. Government Center
- 10<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday)** Planning and Zoning Board Meeting 6 P.M. Government Center
- 12<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)** Rotary Club 7:30 A.M. Thompson Center
- 14<sup>th</sup> (Saturday)** Park Board Meeting 8 A.M. Thompson Center
- 15<sup>th</sup> (Sunday)** Fire Department Winter BBQ (Details on page 6)
- 16<sup>th</sup> (Monday)** Government Office Closed — President's Day
- 17<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday)** Committee Meeting 6 P.M. Board Meeting 7 P.M. Government Center and  
VIPS Meeting 7 P.M. Thompson Center
- 21<sup>st</sup> (Saturday)** Electronic Recycling (Details on page 7)
- 19<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)** Rotary Club 7:30 A.M. Thompson Center
- 26<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)** Rotary Club 7:30 A.M. Thompson Center
- 28<sup>th</sup> (Saturday)** Rotary Annual Auction at 5 P.M., Buffett Dinner at 6:30 P.M. at the Swansea Moose

### \*\*Upcoming Reminders

-  Leaf Burning Dates: March 15 – May 15  
⇒ Wednesdays & Saturdays, 9 A.M. – 6 P.M.
-   Trash Collection Price Increase: Effective May 1<sup>st</sup>  
⇒ (More details in the March Report)  
⇒ Yard waste starts April 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> (More details to come in March Report)

## From the Mayor's Desk

Greetings to all. I hope your Christmas and New Years was happy, healthy and all good. Always wonderful to get together with family and friends.

I had the first "Chat with the Mayor" group get together and I enjoyed the face-time very much. This group will be getting together again in January for another round-table chat.

I want to change this group every 2-3 months to get input in person from residents. Everything will be open for conversation and the only rules will be to be respectful of all opinions and differences of others. So, bring your thoughts, bring your solutions and think about what is best for Swansea.



You can start looking for videos I will be making in the Village. You can look for these on my "Jeff Parker for Swansea Mayor" page on Facebook. They will consist of Retail Businesses, Social Clubs, current projects in the Village and sometimes my thoughts and opinions of subject at hand.

This will be shared onto the Swansea Residents Page site too. Keep your attentions to these sites for forthcoming video and information.

I hope that you all will be interested in the "Chat with Mayor" program I'm starting. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible. I like frank and forward conversation as this is how I learn.

Please text me your name, phone number and purpose of the text. I'm sorry, but I don't answer unknown phone numbers due to all the scammers on the Internet.

Thanks to all,  
Mayor Jeff Parker  
618-980-6440

# Village Of Swansea

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[www.swanseail.org](http://www.swanseail.org)

## **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the Village of Swansea Planning & Zoning Board will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, January 13th, 2026, at 6:00 PM at the Swansea Government Center (1444 Boul Avenue) to consider the following:

- A Special Use Permit for a multi family development at 4480 Biverton Dr.
- A Planned Business submittal for an extension of the Villas At Crystal Lake.
- An ordinance amending section 154.059 of Village Code relating to the parking and storage of vehicles, recreational vehicles, utility trailers, commercial vehicles, and vehicle coverings.

Dated this 17th day of December, 2025

Dan Thomas, Building & Zoning Director